

EPA REGION 3 ENVIRO_BYTES

A Wrap_Up of Issues & Events in EPA*s Mid_Atlantic Region
April 21, 2000

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*****Happy Earth
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computer systems. If you are reading EnviroBytes as a hard copy or on the
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PHILADELPHIA MAYOR CALMS FEARS FOR 400 AT TOWN MEETING

Philadelphia Mayor John Street met with 400 members of the Eastwick
community to address several of their concerns, including those about
potential contamination coming from the nearby Clearview Landfill.
Residents are worried that Hurricane Floyd has spread landfill
contamination onto their streets and properties. The Clearview Landfill
is one of many contamination sources that are part of the greater
Superfund site known as the Lower Darby Creek Area. Mayor Street promised
to coordinate with EPA and the state*s Department of Environmental
Protection to address the community*s concerns.

PEPCO OIL SPILL CLEANUP ON TRACK

Extensive cleanup continues at the Pepco oil spill which occurred in
Swanson Creek, a tributary of the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland.
More than 700 cleanup workers are on the scene, on water, on shorelines
and in marsh lands. A public meeting held on Wednesday evening, April 12,
was attended by an estimated 350 people and was chaired throughout by US
Congressman Steny Hoyer. Regional Administrator Brad Campbell spoke for
EPA.

EPA ASKS COURT TO LIFT STAY ON NOX SIP CALL

On April 11, EPA asked the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to
lift the stay on the agency*s rule for reducing the interstate transport
of smog-causing emissions nitrogen oxides (NOx). EPA*s request is
designed to implement the March 3, 2000 ruling by the Court that upheld
the NOx SIP Call rule. EPA asked the Federal Court to end the stay of the
date by which states are required to submit their State Implementation
Plans or SIPs. If the Court grants EPA*s request and lifts the stay, the
plans would be due September 1, 2000 and all affected states will have to
implement pollution control measures to reduce their NOx emissions by May
1, 2003. The NOx SIP Call rule will be essential to help the states meet
the 1-hour ozone standard.

GOOD NEWS FROM POWER PLANTS IN VIRGINIA

Dominion Generation, a Virginia Power operator, has announced that it will

shut down the Possum Point coal-fired units in Northern Virginia and replace them with efficient clean combined cycle gas-fired turbines. This voluntary effort will result in emissions reductions of over 4,000 tons per year of nitrogen oxides (NOx) by the year 2003. The source will be able to profit from approximately 40 percent of the emission reductions under the NOx SIP Call trading program.

EPA APPROVES ALLEGHENY COUNTY'S MEDICAL WASTE CONTROLS

On April 7, the Federal Register announced Region III's approval of the Allegheny County, PA plan for controlling air pollution emissions from existing medical waste incinerators. This approval fulfills part of a nationwide requirement, under the provisions of Sections 111(d) and 129 of the Clean Air Act, to significantly reduce medical waste emissions of organics (dioxins/furans), carbon monoxide, metals (cadmium, lead, mercury, particulate matter), opacity, and acid gases (hydrogen chloride, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides). Also, this is the first HMIWI 111(d)/129 plan approval in Region III. Nationwide nine plans have now been approved, and approximately 42 others are now in various stages of submittal to EPA and review. There are at least three known facilities in Pittsburgh that will be subject to the plan.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS HEAR ABOUT ENERGY SAVINGS

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors requested a workshop on Energy Efficiency at their Annual Convention April 9 - 11 at the Hershey Convention Center. The Investing in Energy Efficiency Workshop was geared toward helping facility managers, finance managers, and comptrollers to better understand how the EPA's Energy Star Programs can help them save money and help the local environment and economy.

BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP BILL WINS PASSAGE IN MD

A bill that will make it easier to redevelop brownfields won final passage in the General Assembly last weekend. The legislation is a victory for Baltimore and state economic development officials, who said the state's three-year-old brownfields law needed to be liberalized so more industrial sites can be cleaned up. The measure goes to the governor for his expected signature.

YO! NO DUMPING, DRAINS TO RIVER

This Earth Day message is being stenciled on storm drains throughout the Philadelphia area. Dozens of volunteers will be deployed throughout a two-week period around Earth Day armed with stencils and spray paint.

VIRGINIA BEACH KIDS GET PREZ AWARD FOR RIVER PROJECT

Students from Kemp Landing Magnet School in Virginia Beach won the Presidential Environmental Youth Award and attended a ceremony to honor them at the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. The students studied pollution in the Elizabeth River, and organized a water monitoring program by student volunteers.

FOUR REGION 3 AREAS GET ADDITIONAL BROWNFIELDS MONEY

Four areas in Region 3 were awarded supplemental brownfields grants. These areas already received initial grants, and the supplementals will help recipients continue and expand their projects. Philadelphia, Bucks County, Pa., Shenandoah, Va.; and Northampton County, Va. received the grants.

BEACH CONDITIONS IN REAL TIME ON WEB

EPA Region 3 is leading a pilot initiative for the national BEACHES program to post time_relevant beach water quality information on the Internet. This project will benefit Region III while also laying the groundwork for efforts nationwide.

EPA TEACHES LAB ASSESSORS COURSE

The Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance hosted the first National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference laboratory assessors training. The Global Institute of Environmental Scientists facilitated the pilot offering of the basic assessor training course for 38 representatives from the following accrediting authorities: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Florida, New Hampshire, Utah, and Colorado. These states represent over half of the accrediting authorities nationwide. The course concluded with participants completing a two_hour exam to certify them as laboratory assessors.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS APPEAR ON CALENDAR & ADS

The 16 winners of the *Clean Water Begins and Ends with You* poster contest in Philadelphia were honored at a televised ceremony April 6. The winners* posters with a stormwater run-off prevention theme will be featured on a calendar and a bus billboard ad campaign. The winners received \$50-\$100 gift certificates from K-Mart, World of Science, Borders Book Store and free passes to the New Jersey State Aquarium. Sponsors of the contest were the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, the Philadelphia Water Department, the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program, SEPTA, Eller Media, DURON Paints and the New Jersey State Aquarium.

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